

California Industrial Hygiene Council (CIHC) March, 2011 Update

CIHC Highlights

- The March 10, 2011 CIHC Board meeting was held in Sacramento. A brief orientation about CIHC, its history, mission and activities was provided for new incoming Board members. The Strategic Plan, reviewed with all 5 local sections, was finalized and will be posted to the CIHC website.
- Over 250 occupational and environmental health bills of potential interest to CIHC and its stakeholders were reviewed. Of the original 250, 46 bills were selected by the Board for follow-on actions and assigned monitoring by Cathy Barankin, Sacramento Advocacy, and the Board.
- Given the need to “educate” our Sacramento based legislative team, CIHC is looking to sponsor several “brown bag” sessions for legislative staff interested in learning more about EHS issues unique to California business. Several topics are being explored.
- CIHC has been requested to designate a representative to the Cal-OSHA Lead Committee.
- CIHC is in the process of submitting formal comments on Assembly Member Monning’s proposed bill AB 553 regarding the rights of workers to be protected from exposure to hazardous substances and toxic materials in the workplace. AB 553 has been assigned an “amend” position by the CIHC Board. The national AIHA, in parallel, has also submitted formal comments on AB 553 after having its Risk Assessment Committee review the proposed Bill’s provisions (national AIHA comments posted on CIHC’s website).
- CIHC is also working on comments to address Senate Bill 178. SB 178 (Simitian) would authorize the Green Ribbon Science Panel to review regulations proposed for adoption under the provisions regulating chemicals of concern in consumer products and to make recommendations to the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) on related scientific and technical matters. While CIHC supports the broad goals of the Green Chemistry Initiative and will continue to work with DTSC and other stakeholders to help spur green chemical innovation, it has concerns with the fact that the science stakeholder process does not appear to allow input equally from all interested parties in a format that is open to the public.

As currently constituted, the Green Ribbon Science Panel’s role is to “provide advice on scientific matters, chemical policy recommendations and implementation strategies.” CIHC believes that the Green Ribbon Science Panel should continue to serve in an advisory capacity, as it was envisioned in the original statute, because it is a consultative body and not a quasi-judicial body. In the event the Green Ribbon Science Panel’s role is amplified to review and make recommendations on regulations, a transparent and public process by which stakeholders and other interested parties can formally comment on any recommendations should be established. The proposed SB 178 does not presently reflect a process which enables stakeholder

input in a transparent manner.

- And finally, CIHC is working on comments to be sent to Honorable Daniel Inouye in support of continued NIOSH funding for ERCs across the country. As presently proposed, some \$24.3 million would be eliminated in federal funding for the Educational and Research Centers (ERCs) with some 17 university based ERCs and 87 interdisciplinary graduate programs at risk.
- The CA EH&S Conference is being spearheaded by the state's ASSE chapters and scheduled for April 13-14, 2011 in Anaheim, CA. CIHC, as well as the Orange County and Northern California Local Sections, are all actively participating on the conference program committee. The CIHC has committed to sponsoring three roundtables (Nanomaterials; Global Chemical Regulatory Shifts, with an emphasis on Green Chemistry; and Risk Assessment). The Northern California Section is sponsoring the session on Emergency Response, while Orange County has taken the lead on NIOSH's Prevention Through Design initiative.
- December 5-7, 2011 CIHC Conference, San Francisco—plans are underway. Additional details to follow shortly.
- The next CIHC Board meeting is slated for September 2011. Go to www.cihconline.com for CIHC Board members and contact information, meeting minutes, conference proceedings, formal submittals and links to key resources.

Respectfully submitted,

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